

FRIDAY

September 21, 2001

LOCAL NEWS

Traffic alert

Because of the Oktoberfest celebration today and Saturday in downtown Belleville, traffic detours were set up at 5 p.m. Thursday around the Public Square. Illinois 159 will be closed to traffic between Washington and A streets, and Main Street between First and High streets. The detours will be taken down between 3 and 7 a.m. Sunday.

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BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

EPA wants to add Sauget sites to priorities list

Would provide federal funds for cleanup

By KARALEE MILLER
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed that two areas in Sauget, including Dead Creek, be added to the Superfund National Priorities List.

Locations on the list of hazardous waste sites are eligible for federal funding to assist with cleanup efforts in those areas.

Sauget Area 1 includes three closed landfills, two fill areas and portions of Dead Creek,

which runs 3½ miles from industrial areas in Sauget and Cahokia into a residential area.

Crews from Solutia Inc. have been working on removing contaminated sediment, including high levels of PCBs, dioxin and heavy metals from Dead Creek. The total cost of the cleanup is estimated at \$17 million.

The spokesman for Solutia could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Sauget Area 2 encompasses five known disposal areas near the Mississippi River.

Leo Rosales, spokesman for

the EPA, said the proposal from the EPA gives greater attention to the two areas, which were used for disposal of industrial, commercial and municipal solid and liquid waste materials starting in the 1930s.

"Essentially, it's getting more attention now on the list because there's more resources that go in," he said. "It's a higher priority now than it was before."

Rosales said the final decision will come from EPA Region 5, based in Chicago, after a 60-day public comment period.

"We always take into account what the community wants for

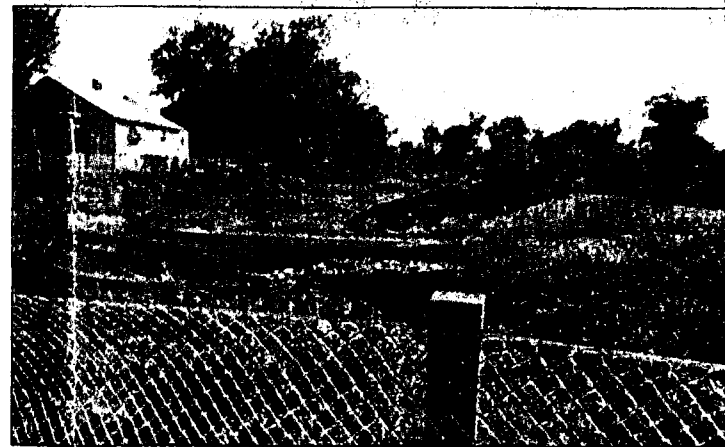
these sites that are in their backyards," he said.

A total of 17 sites were proposed for the list Sept. 13, and the two sites in Sauget are the only new sites proposed in Region 5.

Rosales said it's too early to say how much funding the two sites in Sauget may receive should they be approved for the National Priorities List.

Currently, there are 1,238 final sites on the National Priorities List and 72 proposed sites.

If the two Sauget sites receive approval for the list, cleanup in the areas could take a couple of years, Rosales said.



ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

The Dead Creek area has been proposed for the priorities list for cleanup.

Couple gives in; city drops complaint

By SUE BRITT
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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS — Edward and Reba Kelly cut the overgrown vegetation at their home, the city is happy, so the complaint against them was dropped Thursday.

Fairview Heights code en-

Bi-State land left natural; nearby landscaper irked

Strip with ditch unmowed, weedy

By SCOTT WUERZ
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BELLEVILLE — When the operators of Sonnenberg's landscaping learned that the Bi-State Development Agency planned to build a MetroLink station just across the street from their business, they were thrilled.

Flanagan Road, which runs

